

Emma Hart/Jockum Nordström, Camden Arts Centre - exhibition review

In Emma Hart's superb *Dirty Looks* she captures the messiness of the body and the chaos of the mind, while in Jockum Nordström's show his works are slower burning — he has a knack for creating atmospheres that are both compelling and unsettling



Speaking in tongues: Emma Hart, Clipboard, 2013

[f Share](#) 27 [t Tweet](#) 9 [g+ Share](#) [✉ Email](#)

BEN LUKE



Published: 26 July 2013

Updated: 16:53, 26 July 2013

★★★★☆

Emma Hart is the antidote to the cool, detached minimalist or conceptual artist. Not for her the spare, enigmatic hangs so common in galleries — her installations assault the senses with clutter and cacophony.

In *Dirty Looks*, Hart has created an office-like environment full of chipboard cupboards and drawers and invaded the space with videos and sculpture. Recently bewitched by the wonders of clay, she began making tongues, crudely spotted with pink, red and black glaze. The show is infested with them — they protrude from cupboards as door handles, loom lasciviously over ceramic clipboards and loop hilariously around napkins. She has also created cartoonish clay mouths from which the tongues loll and droop, as well as ceramic buckets and water cooler taps.

Hart's videos and sound are similarly arresting, with abrupt coughing and incessant chatter providing a cacophonous soundtrack. The films appear where you least expect them — on top of the cupboards or from beneath ceramic photo frames.

In one, an animated pair of teeth spout gibberish inspired by the call centre where Hart once worked, while another sees a sequence of gargoyles accompanied by a voiceover which sounds like someone looking at a identity parade: "No, not that one." All around the ceramics and within the films are images of flowers and berries, clichéd photos of natural beauty amid the grotesqueness.

Hart captures the messiness of the body and the chaos of the mind as they tackle everyday life with an original and suitably excessive language — this is a superb show.

Ads by Google

Self Storage from £8/week
Shurgard storage units from £8/Week. No minimum stay & No deposit!
Shurgard.co.uk

Walk in Showers
Walk in Showers with Ultra Low Tray Make Bathing a Pleasure Again.
BathingSolutions.co.uk/Showers

National Express £6 Deal
Fares £6 or Less Limited Time Only... Book Online Now Before They Go!
nationalexpress.com

[Top stories in Going Out](#)

Baconface: It's all Bacon, The Stand - comedy review



Benedick with bells on: James Earl Jones on new production of Much Ado About Nothing